

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

B ~~The invention relates to a telecommunication network, preferably an~~ An ATM network, in which the downward data rate, from the network to the users, is greater than the upward data rate, from the users to the network. Multiplexers are provided for establishing connections, constituting virtual channels, between users and the network; the virtual channels are grouped into virtual paths. In each multiplexer close to the user ~~(28, 22, 25)~~, the bandwidth allocated to each downward virtual path is variable under the control of ~~a means (30), such as a~~ call control means provided upstream in a switching node ~~(12)~~, and the upward virtual channels have a fixed bandwidth. Preferably, in the downward direction, each virtual channel is assigned a permanent or semi permanent quality of service ~~(Figure)~~.